A

MEMORIAL

OF THE

Organization and First Re-union

OF THE

New York Association

OF

Hamilton Alumni.

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KILBOURNE TOMPKINS, BOOK AND COMMERCIAL PRINTER,
16 Cedar Street, bet. William and Pearl.

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Organization of the Association.

For some years past the desire has been general among the graduates of Hamilton, residing in and about New York city, to form a local organization of the Alumni: but, save in private conversation and correspondence, it has found no expression until quite recently. The first open effort to give it shape and body appeared in the following circular:

To

Dear Sir:

A preliminary meeting of the Alumni of Hamilton College resident in New York City and its vicinity, will be held at No. 37 Lafayette Place, on Thursday, December 17th, 1868, at 8 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of organizing a local Alumni Association, and arranging for an annual re-union.

Please attend, if possible, and communicate whatever information you can obtain relative to the address of any of the Alumni in this vicinity whom you may know, to Isaac H. Hall, Esq., No. 36 Pine Street, or to Elihu Root, Esq., No. 43 Pine Street, New York City.

New York, December 12th, 1868.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT.
THOMAS S. HASTINGS.
EDWIN C. LITCHFIELD.
CHARLES P. KIRKLAND.
F. F. ELLINWOOD, and others.

This circular was sent to each alumnus residing in and about the city, whose address could be ascertained, and notices of the meeting were also inserted in the various daily newspapers.

In compliance with this call, a number of the Alumni met in the evening of December 17th, 1868, in the lower lecture-room of the Columbia Law School. After some time spent in informal conversation, the meeting was called to order by Isaac H. Hall, of the class of 1859. Prof. Theodore W. Dwight, LL. D., of the class of 1840, was elected chairman, and Isaac H. Hall, secretary. After an address by the chairman, setting

forth the objects of the meeting, and proceedings had in due form, with spirited and pleasant addresses by Rev. Pres. Brown, Gen. John Cochrane, Rev. Drs. Kendall and Hastings, and others, it was decided to form THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF HAMILTON ALUMNI, to consist of graduates, recipients of honorary or *ad eundem* degrees, and those students of Hamilton who have not completed a collegiate course. The following officers were elected:

CHARLES P. KIRKLAND, LL. D., ('16), *President.*
THEODORE W. DWIGHT, LL. D., ('40),
JOHN COCHRANE, ('31),
JOSEPH S. BOSWORTH, LL. D., ('26),
EDWIN C. LITCHFIELD, ('32),
REV. THOMAS S. HASTINGS, D. D. ('48),
REV. HENRY KENDALL, D. D., ('40),
Vice-Presidents.
ALEXANDER SPAULDING, ('46), *Treasurer,*
ISAAC H. HALL, ('59), *Corresponding Secretary.*
ELIHU ROOT, ('64), *Recording Secretary,*
THEODORE W. DWIGHT, ('40),
JOHN N. POMEROY, ('47),
ALEXANDER SPAULDING, ('46),
EMMONS CLARK, ('47),
ASAHEL N. BROCKWAY, ('57),
GEORGE S. HASTINGS, ('57),
ISAAC H. HALL, ('59),
ELIHU ROOT, ('64),
Executive Committee.

It was also decided to have a re-union and dinner on either the 14th or 21st of January, 1869, leaving the details of arrangement to the Executive Committee.

The Alumni present at this preliminary meeting, so far as ascertained, were the following: Gen. John Cochrane, '31; Rev. Parsons C. Hastings, 38; Dr. Joseph M. Turner, '38; Theodore W. Dwight, LL. D., '40; Edwards Hall, M. D., '40; Rev. Dr. Henry Kendall, '40; Rev. D. A. Holbrook, '44; Dwight H. Olmstead, Esq., '46; Alexander Spaulding, Esq., '46; Col. Emmons Clark, '47; Prof. John N. Pomeroy, LL. D., '47; Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Hastings, '48; Alvan Tenney, Esq., '49; Prof. David H. Cochran, Ph. D., '50; Col. Daniel W. Gillett, '50; Dr. Cornelius E. Billington, '54; Prof. Henry B. Millard, M. D., '55; James S. Baker, Esq., '57; Dr. Asahel N.

Brockway, '57; Col. George S. Hastings, '57; Isaac H. Hall, Esq., '59: James S. Greves, Esq., '61; Rev. Benjamin F. Miller, '62; Rev. Amos H. Dean, '64; Elihu Root, Esq., '64; Chester Huntington, '66; Rev. Charles Simpson, '66; Sydney A. Sherwin, '67; Charles E. Rice, '67; William R. Jerome, '68; James H. Willard, '68. Many, also, who were absent in body, sent warm-hearted letters to evince their presence in spirit.

The Executive Committee immediately set about preparing for the re-union, and soon issued, and sent to each living alumnus, whose address they could learn, the following circular:

To

DEAR SIR,

Pursuant to a call issued by circular and by notices in the daily papers, a number of the alumni of Hamilton College, resident in this city and neighborhood, met at No. 37 Lafayette Place on the 17th inst., to form a local organization and arrange for an annual re-union.

The meeting was quite large, well representing the character and position of the alumni in and about the city, and was the occasion of many gratifying surprises and renewals of younger friendships, and altogether very cordial and pleasant. Both the addresses of those present, and letters from absent ones, evinced the most favorable feeling, and expressed an unqualified wish that the design of the meeting might be most fully carried out.

An association was formed, to consist of graduates, recipients of *ad eundem* or honorary degrees, and those students of Hamilton who have not completed a collegiate course. Officers and a committee were appointed, a list of whose names appears on the reverse of this circular. The object of the association is purely social and friendly, and everything tending to use it as a financial agent of the College will be excluded.

The First Re-union of the New York Association of Hamilton Alumni is to take place on Thursday evening, January 21st, 1869, at the Astor House, in this city.

The association will meet at six o'clock P. M., for a business meeting. Seven o'clock P. M. is the hour for the dinner and re-union.

The price of tickets for the dinner is eight dollars. Please remit the price of your tickets, or any number of tickets you may wish for your friends of the alumni, to Alexander Spaulding, Esq., No. 937 Broadway, corner of 22d Street, New York, or to any member of the Executive Committee. The tickets will be forwarded, and provision made for the specified number, immediately upon receipt of the price.

It is hoped that no engagement will be thought too pressing, and no distance from the city too great, to prevent your sharing in and contributing to the enjoyment of the occasion.

New York, December 22d, 1868.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT,
JNO. N. POMEROY,
ALEXANDER SPAULDING,
EMMONS CLARK,
A. N. BROCKWAY,
GEO. S. HASTINGS,
ISAAC H. HALL,
ELIHU ROOT. *

Executive Committee.

To this circular, as to all the efforts of the committee, the Alumni made generous response, and they very materially lightened the tasks, and removed embarrassments of the committee, with substantial aid, and tokens of unfeigned and enthusiastic good feeling.

The Re-union.

As announced by the circular of the committee, the first annual re-union of the NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF HAMILTON ALUMNI took place at the Astor House, in the evening of January 21st, 1869.

The guests assembled in one of the hotel parlors at six o'clock, and spent a most pleasant hour in social converse, recalling old times and scenes, and learning anew the old faces. At a little after seven they proceeded to the dining hall, and took their places at the table by mutual affinity, which resulted in an arrangement very nearly identical with the order of graduation.

As nearly as can now be ascertained, the list of guests was as follows: Charles P. Kirkland, LL. D., '16; Daniel Le Roy,

* The reverse of this circular contained a list of the officers of the association, with a list of all the names and addresses, so far as known, of the alumni residing in the city and vicinity, which it is not necessary to re-produce here.

Esq., '17 ; Samuel K. Kip, Esq., '23 ; Rev. Joel Parker, D. D., '24; Pres. Samuel G. Brown, D. D., LL. D. ; Prof. Edward North, '41 ; Rev. Asa S. Colton, '27 ; John H. Healy, '66 ; William R. Jerome, Esq., '68 ; Rev. Frederick J. Jackson, '43 ; Rev. N. W. Goertner, D. D. ; Rev. Henry A. Nelson, D. D., '40 ; Prof. Theodore W. Dwight, LL. D., '40; Dr. Edwards Hall, '40 ; Rev. Henry Kendall, D. D., '40 ; Gen. John Cochrane, '31 ; Edwin C. Litchfield, Esq., '32 ; Dr. Joseph M. Turner, '38 ; Rev. Thomas S. Hastings, D. D., '48 ; Charles J. Lowrey, Esq., '41 ; Rev. D. A. Holbrook, '44 ; Alvan Tenney, Esq., '49 ; Martin Hawley, Esq., '51 ; Rev. Francis F. Ellinwood, D. D., '49 ; D. Ogden Bradley, Esq., '48 ; Prof. E. W. Root, Ph. D., '62 ; Prof. John N. Pomeroy, LL. D. '47 ; Col. Emmons Clark, '47 ; Ex-Gov. Joseph R. Hawley, '47 ; John W. Bulkley, Esq., '53 ; Prof. David H. Cochran, Ph. D., '50; James S. Greves, Esq., '61 ; Morris F. Sheppard, Esq., '65 ; George H. Starr, Esq., '61 ; George W. Hubbell, Esq., '67 ; Charles S. Hastings, Esq., '60 ; Rev. Foster Ely, '58; William D. Farlin, Esq., '64 ; R. A. Elmer, Esq., '64 ; Prof. Henry B. Millard, M. D., '55 ; George W. B. Dakin, Esq., '53 ; Daniel Huntington, Esq., '36 ; James O. Morse, Esq., '36 ; George W. Dillow, '68 ; Col. Jay E. Lee, '56 ; Dr. Asahel N. Brockway, '57 ; Col. George S. Hastings, '57 ; James S. Baker, Esq., '57 ; Henry P. Norton, Esq., '28 ; Elihu Root, Esq., '64 ; Prof. C. H. F. Peters, Ph. D. ; Isaac H. Hall, Esq., '59 ; Alexander Spaulding, Esq., '46 ; Duane Conant, Esq., '67.

After a blessing asked by Rev. JOEL PARKER, D. D., a bounteous meal was partaken of with duly appreciative appetites, while other appetites were quite as generously satisfied with provision much richer. After thanks returned by Rev. ASA S. COLTON, the cloth was removed, and the tables were called to order by the President, Hon. CHARLES P. KIRKLAND, LL. D., who addressed the Alumni as follows :

ADDRESS OF MR. KIRKLAND.

Brethren of the Alumni :

I thank you for the honor of being elected the first President of the "New York Association of Hamilton Alumni," though

it is certain that the most ambitious among you would not be willing to accept the office on the ground to which I am indebted for it, namely, *seniority.* No contest existed for the office, inasmuch as no other could present his diploma with the date of September, 1816, and thus trace back the catalogue for upwards of half a century to find his name. *This* distinction belonged to me alone; so without rivalry, and without even envy on the part of others, I became your President.

I meet you at this, our first re-union, with sincere pleasure, surrounded by so large a number of brethren, many of them eminent among their fellow-citizens.

This College had its origin in the enlightened and far-seeing mind of the Rev. SAMUEL KIRKLAND, after whom one of its halls, and also the town of Kirkland were named.* The first term began in the fall of 1812. At the *mature* age of fourteen I entered the freshman class of that year. It had eighteen members, the sophomore six, the junior two, the senior none: but the paucity in numbers was compensated by our ideas of the dignity and importance of our new position. We regarded

* This excellent man was an early patron of education, and a pioneer of Christianity in the western part of our State. He was born in Connecticut in 1741, received his preparatory education at Dr. Wheelock's Indian School in that State, and graduated at Princeton, in 1765. He immediately became a missionary to the Oneida and the neighboring tribes of Indians, and was very successful in Christianizing that heathen people. Among his early converts was the famous chief SKENANDOAH, whose last wish was, "that he might be interred by the side of this, his father in the Lord, so that he might rise with him in the resurrection day." The wish was gratified, and they now lie side by side in the College grounds. Mr. Kirkland continued his missionary labors during the whole of the war of the Revolution, and did good service to the American cause. In October 1791, he removed to the beautiful tract of land in Clinton, granted to him by the Indians and the State of New York, and on which his old family mansion still stands, near the foot of the College Hill. In 1793, he obtained a charter for the "Hamilton Oneida Academy," and made it a valuable donation of land, embracing the present site of the College. In 1811, the Academy was converted into Hamilton College, which then received its charter; and thus, in every practical sense, he was the founder of our Alma Mater. He was the father of John Thornton Kirkland, subsequently the beloved and distinguished president of Harvard University. He died in Clinton in 1808, lamented by every friend of education and of Christianity. This slight tribute to his memory is not inappropriate here.

ourselves as the equals in rank of the students of Oxford and Cambridge, of Harvard and Yale, and we put on airs and "cut up capers" accordingly. Before the college had attained the age of three years, a professor's windows were smashed, emeutes occurred in the Commons hall, admonitions from the faculty for violation of the rules as to card-playing and the like, and the rustication of five of my class-mates. This latter exercise of authority was deemed tyrannical, and led to the publication, in a newspaper in the village of Ithaca, of a very caustic attack by one of the "sufferers," upon President Backus. Its author and his sympathizers took especial pains to send it to the president, and they had the satisfaction of knowing that it was very annoying to him and the other members of the faculty. Its authorship was not discovered till years afterwards.

Dr. Backus was a man of genius, of the most kindly feelings, and very sensitive. He never preached to us without tears, nor censured a student without deep emotion. He disliked above all things attempts at "fine writing," and, on one occasion, when one of my classmates read for his composition a colloquy brilliant with wit, as he supposed, the president's sole criticism was, "there's no Attic salt in that; nothing but shad brine." This occurred more than fifty years since, but it is as vivid in my mind as if it were an event of yesterday. The author of that colloquy still lives, a distinguished citizen of the State in which he resides.

The second year of the College witnessed the birth of the Phœnix Society, and of its rival the Philopeuthean. The struggles between them were as fierce and as earnest with our fifty students as between the rival societies of Yale and Harvard, with their many hundreds. My devotion to the Phœnix was such, the necessity for a library so pressing, and my pecuniary means so small, that I took from my father's book-shelves, without his leave, the valuable "Life of Fisher Ames," and presented it to my society, where I trust it yet remains. When my father discovered the abstraction, he dismissed me merely with a gentle reprimand, on the ground that my excessive enthusiasm in a good cause led to, and at the same time atoned for the misdeed.

The students of my day were divided into two sets: "the

steady fellows" and "the high fellows:" the latter Phœnicians, the former Philopeutheans, and to the Philopeutheans belonged EDWARD ROBINSON, whose name is as familiarly and favorably known in Europe and in Germany as in America, and PHILO GRIDLEY, an illustrious name in the judiciary of New York. Permit me to mention a pleasing incident that has occurred just in time for this re-union. On the catalogue is the name of ZEPHANIAH PLATT, of the class of 1815: he is now a citizen of South Carolina, and two years since was elevated to the Bench of one of the highest Courts of that State. Yesterday I received from him two opinions he had just delivered, and my legal brethren of the Alumni will say that these opinions would have done no discredit to his eminent father, JUDGE PLATT, the worthy associate, in our Supreme Court, of SPENCER, THOMPSON and VAN NESS. We are proud of this, the oldest surviving graduate of Hamilton.

The College possessed one "institution" in my day, illustrating the difference between the habits and customs of that time and of this. This "institution" was called "the buttery." It was in the basement of the College dining hall, and was well supplied with *strong* beer, cider, chewing tobacco and cigars, for the use of those students who could afford such luxuries. The profits on the sales were the perquisite of some worthy charity student: it had the sanction of the trustees and of the faculty. The temperance men of this day will not untruly affirm that those guardians of morals and of virtue sanctioned, and indeed encouraged their wards in these incipient steps to intemperance, for no one now doubts that *strong beer* is an alcoholic drink. That the "buttery" actually produced those habits I will not affirm, but I know that several of the most brilliant of my fellow students sank into drunkards' graves before they attained majority. I felt my own danger, and made resolutions accordingly, and am happy to say that it is now forty-one years since I have tasted a single drop of ardent spirits. But do not too severely blame the men of that day, for many years afterwards (1833), at a meeting of the Oneida County Temperance Society, at Utica, a resolution to include wine, beer and cider in the temperance pledge, was defeated by a

decisive majority: and the same year a Convention of the New York State Temperance Society was held in the same city, on which occasion I invited to my dinner table a number of its members, and furnished them with good wine in abundance, and it was liberally partaken of by the guests, as well as the host. You will pardon these statements, as they relate to the times of the earlier Alumni.

I have mentioned some of my contemporaries in the College: the mention of those subsequent I leave to others. But you will excuse me for saying, that I do not find myself entirely solitary on this occasion, for on my left sits DANIEL LE ROY, a respected and honored citizen of New York, a graduate of 1817. Nor can I do justice to my feelings without mentioning a graduate of the class of 1832, to whom our Alma Mater owes a debt of lasting gratitude. The munificent donation of EDWIN C. LITCHFIELD established the Astronomical Observatory, and placed at its head Professor PETERS, justly eminent among modern astronomers, and whose contributions to this sublime and beautiful science have given our College and our country fame in Europe. This was a happy idea of our brother LITCHFIELD, and his name cannot fade from memory, so long as the heavenly bodies continue to be an object of study and of admiration among men.

In forming this association, we follow the example of our brethren of similar institutions, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth: to be sure, their Almae Matres were venerable ladies when ours was born, but this need not deter us from entering bravely on our work, nor prevent us from enjoying as delightful re-unions as, according to report, are participated in by the children of those aged mothers.

Educated foreigners, visiting this country, remark that they find us, beyond any other people, engrossed in the pursuits of business, burdened by the affairs of life, anxious and careworn. The truth of this remark is seen among the merchants, the bankers, the mechanics and the professional men in our cities: and it is no less manifest in the numerous and important class in the country devoted to agriculture. We have too few National festal days, too few associations for the cheerful inter-

change of genial and kindly feelings, too few meetings together for *heart-culture*. Every philanthropist will hail the formation of this and of kindred associations, as aids (slight though they be) in affording occasional relief from the absorbing cares of life, and especially of American life, and in calling out the gentler and kindlier feelings of our nature, and thus increasing the general happiness and promoting the public good.

We meet here in fraternal union, many of us to renew friendships sadly rusted by the lapse of time, and all of us as brothers: some just entering on the stage of life, others having attained its meridian, and others again having reached the "three score years and ten" of the Psalmist. We meet, some of us, for the first time: let us hope and anticipate that this first acquaintance will lead to friendships which will be enduring, and which will brighten the pathway of future life, and scatter at least some additional flowers among its thorns and brambles.

We have made an auspicious beginning: our number is unexpectedly large, and I see now before me many distinguished in the various walks and avocations of life. This Association, I cannot doubt, will be permanent, and our future re-unions be still more numerously attended, increasing in interest and attraction with each returning year. We shall all gladly cooperate in every measure calculated to increase the prosperity of the association.

The fact which I stated as the cause of my selection as presiding officer, has the singular quality of exhausting its whole power by its very first exercise, and though from the nature of the case I must, the next year, and the next, and through all succeeding years of my life, possess this qualification, yet it no longer gives me preference. You will therefore not fear the anomaly (the monstrosity, I may call it in a Republic) of a President for life. Hereafter the field is open to all—and though none of you lived while Washington lived, and therefore none of you breathed, as I did, the air which he breathed, and have none of the *inspiration* derived from that circumstance, still, many of you possess every other qualification for the office, to which I now bid farewell.

I beg to mention in terms of high commendation the services of our brothers, SPAULDING and HALL and ROOT, in forming this association and bringing about this happy re-union. We will not forget them.

May we enjoy many more of these re-unions: and, till the next, and ever after, "may your ways be ways of pleasantness and all your paths be peace."

President KIRKLAND, then announced as the first regular toast of the evening, "THE FACULTY," and called upon the President of the College, Rev. SAMUEL GILMAN BROWN, D. D., LL. D., to respond.

President BROWN responded as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Alumni:

I could wish that the duty of responding to this sentiment had been assigned to some one else, to some one whose memory of the College extended back to its earlier years, to some one who could have interested you with reminiscences of those earlier officers who sustained the institution by their unwearied labors, who consecrated to it their learning, their skill, their strength, when it needed all to insure its success. Nor do I forget that this is a meeting of the *Alumni* of Hamilton, and that it is only through your courtesy and generosity—for which I beg sincerely to thank you—that I am permitted to unite with you in the festivities of the evening. Will you allow me, then, to say that it seems to me to be a cause for mutual congratulation, that among the Colleges of this State, we are the first, if I am rightly informed, to follow the good custom which some of the kindred institutions of New England have inaugurated, of annually collecting their Alumni and friends residing in the vicinity of the great centres of wealth and power, to live over again for a few hours their former life, and polish the links of the chain of common interests and affection which should bind them together as sons of a common mother, and bind them all more closely to her from whom they have received so much.

But though others could speak more intelligently, perhaps, than I, no one, I am sure, can recognize more fully the fact that the spirit of this sentiment goes near to the very life and heart of the College. Certainly, its efficiency, its prosperity, its eminence, depend very largely upon those to whom has been committed the burden of instruction, of immediately watching over, counseling, stimulating, and guiding those who there seek for education. If the College has secured an honorable position, and attained a reasonable degree of prosperity, to them—the active faculty—to their efforts and labors, you owe it more than to anything else. How faithfully, how conscientiously, how successfully they have done their work, amidst many discouragements, and some self-denial, and with very insufficient compensation, you who are here, and many beside you, scattered all over the land, are living witnesses. See what a work the College has done. Look once more over the grand list of the last triennial—follow its fourteen hundred Alumni—see how many have pursued the high studies of jurisprudence, how many have devoted themselves to the beneficent art of healing, how many have consecrated their lives to the great work of evangelizing the world, how many have given themselves to letters, to art, to practical business; how many names there are on that *Roll of Honor* which none can look upon without a feeling of just pride.—Why, the College already has a history which nothing can efface, a noble fame which it is ours to sustain and enlarge. It is not, however, with the past that we have to deal quite so much as with the present and the future. Whether the College shall go on in an uninterrupted career of prosperity, and its maturer years shall only verify the promise of its youth, depends in a great measure upon ourselves. There are some elements in the prosperity of a public institution for education which are patent, easily seen and appreciated. Among these are its *position*, whether or not it is easily accessible, or so situated as to meet the actual wants of a sufficiently large and intelligent community. Another is, undoubtedly, the completeness and thoroughness of the education which it affords, the competency of its instructors, the ampleness of its means for scientific illustration, the state of its cabinets and libraries. An-

other important element, unquestionably, is found in the soundness of its moral and religious teachings. It must command, in these respects, the entire confidence of good men. Another, still, is to be found in the interest and affection of its sons: on them first the College must depend for counsel, for encouragement, for substantial support To them first she must look for sympathy and succor if she is in peril, for approval and encouragement if she be more than usually prosperous.

It is quite unnecessary to attempt to apply these tests, or any other tests, to enable us to anticipate the future of that College to which we owe special allegiance. But how can we help remembering how beautifully she sits upon her fair and fertile hills in the heart of the richest and most powerful State in the Union. What an ample natural constituency she possesses in the rich counties which cluster about the Mohawk, in the northern regions whose wealth and resources are yet not half developed, in the thickly peopled portions of the State further south, and toward the greater lakes, in the ample territories farther towards the setting sun, whither our Alumni have so numerously gone, and from which they annually send back others to take their places.

To be sure, this abundant region, once, so to speak, all her own, she shares now with many other colleges, some of them sustained by strong denominational claims, some commanding the resources of ample wealth, encouraged and fostered by State endowments, and offering new, perhaps easier, and, as it is at least affirmed, better methods for obtaining literary and scientific honors. Notwithstanding all this sharp competition, let us hope that Hamilton will maintain, and more than maintain, its traditional distinction. Colleges have not multiplied, perhaps, much beyond the demands of the increasing population, although it seems to me that the true policy of those interested in thorough collegiate education will be found in concentration rather than multiplication, in making the colleges that exist good ones instead of increasing the number of colleges imperfectly endowed—in concentration of the means of education in order to the widest diffusion of the best influence.

We rest upon the old foundations, because they have been

proved by long experience to be sound, and capable of bearing a goodly superstructure, lofty, varied, and beautiful. But we will not object to the experiments of others, nor refuse to accept any good result which may come from them. The College is flexible, and will adapt itself to every demonstrated want of the mind to be trained, or of the community which waits for men of learning and skill. We should hail with great joy the means of enlarging our scientific or literary culture. The College does not, in this respect, need the stimulus of example or of exhortation. She rather waits for the liberality of her friends to enable her to realize her well-considered plans.

There are other topics on which I should be glad to say a word or two, but I am already violating the excellent five minutes' rule, which has been so wisely announced by the highest authority: and I fear, besides, that in other respects I might violate the proprieties of the occasion.

I think, however, that it will be for the gratification of all present if I should say, as I am happy to be able to say, that whatever be our deficiencies and wants, and they are many, yet in the means of carrying out successfully the great objects of education, which we have at heart, the College was never so well provided as at the present time. May she ever go on, under the smiles of a beneficent Providence, to fulfil more perfectly her mission in the earth. Proud, as she well may be, of her noble body of sons, may they ever look back with increased affection and honor to their already venerable Alma Mater.

In responding to the second toast—"THE ALUMNI"—Professor EDWARD NORTH said that he had been very busy during the day looking for needles—Hamiltonian needles—in this immense hay-mow of civilization, called New York. He was proud to report that these Hamiltonian needles were not difficult to find—they are all so sharp, and bright and busy. They are like the "Cedar-rail Candy," which the irrepressible BASTER used to sell to sub-freshmen on commencement day—"warranted not to cut in the eye." When he saw the hopeful

activity, influence and usefulness of these New York Alumni: when he saw how successful they all seemed to be in their different callings, he asked in a kind of despair, "are there no failures?" He was like the child in the cemetery, who after reading fifty eulogies on marble, asked her father where they buried the sinners. He supposed there might be some failures among the sons of Hamilton, but they were few when compared with the long roll of those who had honored their Alma Mater by faithfully upholding the interests of the Church and the State.

The new Triennial Catalogue contained the names of 1487 Alumni, who may be classified thus:—

Clergymen	450
Foreign Missionaries	13
Lawyers	376
Professional Teachers	91
College Professors and Tutors	58
College Presidents	6
Authors of Published Books	64
Members of Congress	17
Judges and Surrogates	45
Members of Constitutional Conventions	8
Merchants	49
Farmers	18
Physicians	41
Bankers	31
Mayors of Cities	10
Superintendents of Public Instruction	11

While dissecting a prairie chicken, the President had called upon him—extra-judicially, as he thought—to decide how the words ALMA MATER should be pronounced. He had ventured to reply that authorities pull diverse ways. He thought college graduates might be still more at variance, if they were to try to explain what they exactly mean by the words ALMA MATER. Some of us might say, she is the ideal mother of our manhood, that we all love to think of in our unselfish better moments as an inspiration to generous endeavor. To some, Alma Mater is the college as it seemed to us when our years were few and our hopes boundless; when our first honor made the future a romance of heroic achievement; when the world

was all before us where to choose, and our choice was to win stainless laurels and lay them at the feet of our gentle mother. Even in our harder moments, when we are cross, and critical and cold; when we are fully alive to all the short-comings of human institutions, Alma Mater is still the college that we love; the college as it will be, when all needed reforms are carried out: when the clamorous wants are satisfied, and the long deferred hope becomes a rounded reality.

The speaker went on to say that he had unfortunately been sent into the world without the gift of speech-making, and before the invention of prize debates. But Providence is said to help the lame and the lazy. He happened to have in his keeping an anapæstic production by some one afflicted with the *cacoethes rhymendi*, which he would read as a part of his response to the second toast.

"There was an old Lady who lived in a Shoe,
She had so many children she knew not what to do."
She had hundreds of hearty, invincible Boys,
Far out in the world, well-weaned from their toys,
Making fortunes and fame, and lengthening the cords
Of Church and of State with eloquent words.

At home she had Seniors all quick with oration;
Brave Juniors, impatient to startle the nation;
Belligerent Sophs, giving Fresh tribulation,
And filling her Shoe with wild perturbation,
While she sounded the depths of self-abnegation.

These stout Boys at home, a frolicsome crew,
Plagued the soul of the Dame who lived in a Shoe.
They plagued her at night with bonfires and horning:
They plagued her with "fizzles" and "bolts" in the morning.
Without clerical aid, they baptized the Tutor,
And eloped with a Bell, whose gender was neuter.
What with breaking of doors and windows and benches,
And bottles surcharged with pestilent stenches,
Her patience was tried with such violent wrenches,
Once a year she forgot what her tongue was about,
And uttered "D.D.s"—with the dashes left out.
When she scolded her Boys, this great-hearted Mother,
And begged them to cease from their deafening pother,
These protean wags drew on innocent faces,
And talked with supreme Mandevillian graces,

Till herself was convinced they were born to command
The laurels and love of a listening land.

If she called them by name, each name had a spell
To open the gates of the grim citadel
Where Beauty, Renown and Happiness dwell;
And every name's owner, a merciless sphinx,
Mocked with passwords and grips and mystical winks.

There were chivalrous "SIGS," *la crême de la crême*;
And bright "ALPHA DELTS," sure favorites of fame;
Hard-working "PSI-U'S," right proud of their name;
"CHI-PSI'S," born immortal, or bound to die game;
Then blithe "DELTA-U'S," with high moral aim;
And deaconish "DEEKS," who were never to blame;
And live "ALPHA-PHI'S," nursing scholarship's flame;
Last of all, armed "NEUTRALS," who loudly proclaim
Their virtues and glories exactly the same.
(Lo a triumph that GRANT might seek, for variety!
Nine muses have rhymed nine lines with propriety,
When each sings the praise of a rival society.
Thus lion and lynx, ere millennial time,
Are yoked at the bidding of Orphean rhyme.)

No wonder the Dame had no end of surprises,
That gifts so sublime should wear such disguises;
That high-soaring minds their ballooning should ballast
With names from an alphabet deader than Sallust.

* * * *

Her children were hungry as colts out of clover,
They clamored for dinner ere breakfast was over,
Nor were they content with colored confections,
Like mechanics and law and gay conic sections.
She gave them broth seasoned with classical manna,
With logic and lectures and chemistryana,
With prizes and medals and sheepskin diplomas,
Pledging Latin renown more lasting than Homer's.
When broth lost its flavor, clean damask she spread,
And brought them the best of New Hampshire BROWN bread.

Then she whipped them all round, for duty was first;
She whipped them all round, with a heart like to burst;
She whipped them with fines called "extra contingent,"
With warnings and exiles awfully stringent.
When mild lashes gave but a slight titillation,
She whipped them at last with a sound "dissertation;"
Then sent them to bed in those snug breezy stalls,
Named "Kirkland," and "Dexter" and "Hamilton" halls.

Then hail to the Dame so plucky and true,
Who gives every inch of her pinching old Shoe,
Every sip of her broth, of her bread every roll,
To comfort the boys that worry her soul.

All hail to the Dame, whose voice on the Hill
Wakes her sons to survey thought's kingdom at will;
And arms them to wield, in their glad golden youth,
Ithuriel's spear and the falchion of truth.
Then crown Alma Mater with honors forever;
Let her plenty and peace flow deep like a river;
Let her names be all sweet, Homeric and tender,
Bright-throned, silver-footed, fair Learning's Defender.

The beloved professor, as always, was greeted and accompanied throughout with expressions of unfeigned delight and attachment. As the applause ceased, the Alumni found vent and voice for their enthusiasm in the following song:

RETROSPECTIVE.

Alumni! now I'm going to sing
A song that home will come,
Of happy moments that I've known
With my old College chum.
How I wish that I could roam again
Beside the Oriskany,
Or with my chum could sit and talk
Beneath the Poplar tree.

CHORUS—'T is many a night since first we sat
Beneath the Poplar tree,
And there made glad the hours with fun,
And laugh and minstrelsy.

Four years went by on pinions light,
And then the distant hum
Of dull toil bade me leave my books
And my old College chum.
But I dream by night when all is still,
That he comes back to me,
And golden hours return again
Beneath the Poplar tree. CHO.

I might forget that I have reached
The half of years threescore,
When I can dream I see my chum,
And hail him Sophomore,

Would Alma Mater's grandsons cease
To climb their father's knee,
And tease me funny tales to tell
About the Poplar tree. CHO.

President KIRKLAND then announced as the third regular toast, "THE CLERGY," and called for response upon Rev. HENRY A. NELSON, D. D., of Lane Theological Seminary, Ohio.

Rev Dr. NELSON said:

Mr. President—In the spring of 1861 ("annus memorabilis") I was journeying eastward from my western home, and had arrived, in the early morning, at Rochester. Detained there for an hour, I was startled by the cry of a news-boy in the street: "*Morning paper—all about the battle in St. Louis:*" a kind of cry not then so familiar as it afterwards became. From that paper I read the account of Captain Lyon's energetic action in capturing "CAMP JACKSON," the seasonable breaking up of a nest of treason, which, considering the time and the circumstances, I deem one of the most sagacious and heroic acts of the war, resembling greatly, in moral courage, Major Anderson's removal of his force (without orders) to Fort Sumpter.

By my absence from home, I missed the opportunity of watching the movement of Lyon's regiments through the streets of St. Louis, as my children did watch them, from the windows of a church tower, from which afterwards the flag of the Union floated, higher from the ground, I suppose, than it has ever elsewhere floated west of the Mississippi, cheering, I hope, many thousands of weary and dusty soldiers who marched in sight of it to fields from which so many of them never returned.

On that May morning, in Rochester, I sat down to breakfast in the railroad refreshment room, in a state of some mental exhilaration occasioned by my admiration of Lyon's prompt and vigorous action.

Sitting opposite me at the table was a gentleman who showed a disposition to be sociable. It was raining at the time, and he

commenced by remarking: "A very rainy time—the Connecticut River is higher than it has been for years." I replied: "The Mississippi is not higher than usual." "Ah! from what point on that lengthy river have you come?" "From St. Louis." As soon as I had made this reply, I began to perceive that my New England questioner felt in doubt of me, and I amused myself by refraining a little while from showing my colors. Soon he said: "You know that in these days we have to feel around a man from your part of the country, a little, before we know just how to talk to him." I assured him that "feeling around" me was unnecessary, as I was "*Stars and Stripes all over.*" This satisfied him on that point, but sharpened his curiosity in regard to my personality. So he resumed, "Are you in *business* in St. Louis?" "Yes," I replied, "I *am* in *business* there; I am pastor of one of the churches." "Why!" exclaimed he, "you're the last man I'd take for a minister—where's your white cravat?" I replied, "I'm not on duty, as a minister, this morning; you would not expect a military officer always to have his epaulettes on, would you?" "No," he said, "but you don't *look* at all like a minister; you don't look *melancholy*."

Whether the Committee of Arrangements have taken a different view of my physiognomy, which has led them to assign me this position, this evening, I am not informed. However that may be, sir, I am happy, and believe that my clerical brethren are happy in the privilege of mingling thus with our brethren Alumni of other professions, in cordial interchange of friendly sentiments, and recalling memories pleasant and precious of Alma Mater. We recognize the real sisterhood of the learned professions; and whether in preaching the Gospel, in defending the rights and liberties of men, in ministering to the sick, or in educating the young, we equally honor every man who faithfully serves God and his generation, in that sphere of labor to which he honestly thinks that God calls him.

Of my own class (1840), the member who won the first honor (SHERWOOD) soon died. Of those then surviving, exactly one-half (*i. e.* nine men) became ministers of the Gospel. At our twenty-fifth anniversary, nearly all the class were together. The

deaths had been very few. Of all whom we knew to be living, there was no one who had not had a career in which his class-mates could take comfort and satisfaction. Dear SHERWOOD had died young, and with no stain on his high honor. But there was one, of as brilliant gifts as any in the class, whom I will not here name, who had gone to a grave of shame, as he would not, I believe, if never, on such a festive occasion as this, had he looked upon that which the wisest of men has warned us not to look upon "when it moveth itself aright."

Sir, I feel sure that my friends present will allow me, without offence, to utter a conviction and a wish. I assuredly do so in utmost respect for those whose opinions may differ from my own. I will utter no extreme opinion. I only say that the *absolute exclusion*, from all such festivities, of everything that can intoxicate, or that can excite an appetite for dangerous stimulants, would, doubtless, *save* some gifted young men from the sad descent and end of my most lamented class-mate. Is there any danger from which we desire the Faculty more carefully to guard our sons and our younger brothers? Will we not help them, by making them able to say, that we, in our festive gatherings, find the excitements of thought, and wit, and song, and speech, and the sight of each other's faces sufficient, without the excitement of wine? Happy and thankful to testify to the freedom of this scene from all excess, yet knowing (as we all know so well) that fearful danger of college life, and deeming the highest attainable *security* against it worth all needful self-denial, I most respectfully plead that total abstinence from all alchoholic drinks may be the rule of the annual festivals which we now inaugurate.

I have no money to give to my Alma Mater, but I deliberately say, I would give my right arm to-night, if the sacrifice would secure the dear youth who are to be her future Alumni from the temptation which comes to them from the belief that alcoholic stimulants are necessary to the high and worthy enjoyment of such social festivities. Most respectfully, yet most earnestly, I entreat their fathers and brothers to set the example most powerful to dispel that illusion.

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The next regular toast announced was "THE BENCH AND BAR." To this, Hon. JOSEPH S. BOSWORTH, LL. D., had been expected to respond. In his absence, caused by pressing matters at home, President KIRKLAND called upon Prof. THEODORE W. DWIGHT, LL. D., who responded as follows.

MR. DWIGHT said:

A recent able legal writer (Dr. Maine) has shown that progress in the law is made by the employment of legal fictions. To this some ill-natured person has added, that individual lawyers certainly make progress in their business by means of the use of fiction. However that may be, I know of no fiction used among lawyers so stupendous as that which your committee has employed in suggesting that under the name of JOSEPH S. BOSWORTH lurks that of THEODORE W. DWIGHT. There is a gentleman present (referring to Mr. C. P. KIRKLAND) who could have most fully responded to this sentiment. We have with us to night a man whose practice as a lawyer embraces a large part of the history of the Bar of the State. His acquaintanceship included nearly all its great jurists, such as AMBROSE SPENCER, KENT, WALWORTH, BRONSON and DENIO, its noted and successful practitioners, such as the HENRYS, TALCOTTS, OGDENS, WILLIAMS, SPENCERS and BEARDSLEYS, as well as the prominent and able men of our own time. Scarcely a case of any importance for thirty or more years appears in our higher Courts, in which he was not engaged in opposition to some leading practitioner. I can well remember, as in my early years I turned over volumes of cases in the reports of our Courts, and saw the continually recurring name of our friend, how my youthful ambition was fired, and how I looked forward with ardent aspirations to the day when my name might appear as his then did. Now, in the fullness of years, he brings the same earnestness and generous zeal which characterized him as a jurist, to the support of the government, to historical inquiry, to the promotion of great philanthropic enterprizes and of general education—laboring in all directions for the progress of humanity, and diffusing every where the mellow light of a declining sun. Such a man could have most worthily represented the sentiment to which I am now expected to respond.